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67097-360; EH-10974

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Otero et al.  
Serial No.: 10/763,611  
Filed: 01/23/2004  
Examiner: ~~Verdier, Christopher M.~~ Kerns, Kevin P.  
Art Unit: 3745

ENTER  
KPK  
10/13/06

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REDUCING OPERATING  
STRESS IN A TURBINE BLADE AND THE LIKE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action of 10 August 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows: